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Fall 1987

History Line

A History and Cultural Resources Newsletter

The Honeymoon Cabin at the historic Tallac Resort estates at Lake Tahoe (ca.1910–1912).

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History Line—Fall 1987

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Washington Office Activities

Former History Line Editor Retires

Frank Harmon retired in June from the Forest Service where he was last employed as a writer-editor with the Washington Office History Section (Public Affairs Office). Frank is best known for his service as editor of the History Line.

Frank Harmon is a native of Hohokus, NJ. In 1940 he graduated from Michigan State College (now University) with a BA in forestry and then spent 2–1/2 years in the army, including 7 months in France with the 13th Airborne Division.

After the war he obtained an MA in journalism from the University of Michigan (1947). Upon graduation he worked as a farm news editor for a newspaper and radio station in Port Huron, MI. After a series of editing jobs Frank began his federal career in 1962 as a writer-editor for the Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA). Two years later he entered the Forest Service as an editor—first with the Editorial Branch (1964–69), then I & E Division (1969–71), and ending with the History Program (1971–87).

The History Program was a new creation when Frank Harmon came aboard as writer-editor. Now a series of publications exist that Frank helped nurture. The History Line continues publication as a lasting legacy to one of its founders.

History Section News

- Terry West was hired to fill the position vacated by retiree Frank Harmon in the

Memories on the last day of work: Frank Harmon stares into the past.

Washington Office Activities

WO History Section. Terry was previously employed in region 6 as forest archeologist. He was awarded a PhD in ethnology from the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research in New York City. Terry conducted several ethnographic studies in the central Andes (Bolivia and Peru). He later did research in his native state of Oregon for a published essay on timber cutters.

- Dennis Roth is busy writing a history of wildlife management in the Forest Service. The essay will cover the time period 1905–1985 and will be ready for publication in 1988. Dennis was selected to edit a future biannual social science newsletter for the Forest Service Social Science Research Committee. The SSRC was formed in April 1987 to promote management use of social science as well as enhance career opportunities of agency practitioners.

- Dennis Roth and Terry West will compile a narrative history of the Forest Service pilot project. Research is scheduled for winter and spring of 1988 with the history to be completed by fall 1988.

- The History Section reviewed the draft of the Region 9 History and it is now being revised by the authors.

- Terry West is responsible for a history of the Forest Products Laboratory (Madison, WI). The current schedule calls for the contract to be awarded in the spring of 1988.

- Jean Pablo returned to the History Section on a part-time basis to work on special projects. She is now working on the Ed Cliff papers. Jean also provided assistance in the display of paintings by Rudy Wendelin for the Region 9 Bi-centennial commemoration of the U.S. Constitution. Mr. Wendelin, former Forest Service artist and painter of numerous Smokey posters, was commissioned to paint a work on the theme of trees as the only living witness of the creation of the Constitution.

- Renewed attention is being given to artifact and document curation by the History Section. Terry West completed a draft of a proposed guide on agency management of historical artifacts and records. The guide is being revised for final release to the field units.

- A fall 1988 National History Coordinators conference is being proposed by the WO History Section. The main topic will be a discussion of the History Program mission and the role of the History Coordinators. The conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

- Intaglio, Inc. was awarded a contract to write a history of region 1. Dr. Henry Dethloff, a professor at Texas A&M, is president of the firm. The project is expected to take 3 years.

Feature Article

The Tallac Historic Resort —*Kathy Hardy and Linda Lux*

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is the site of a historic resort, the legacy of pioneer entrepreneur Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin. "Lucky" left Ohio by wagon train to arrive in California in 1853. He became a wealthy man prominent in both business and social circles. By 1875, he was elected the first president of the Pacific Stock Exchange, purchased 60,000 acres in southern California, and began construction of the Baldwin Hotel in San Francisco. Baldwin also invested in land on the south shore of Lake Tahoe which included a hotel at Tallac Point. The hotel was expanded into an elegant resort complex with an international reputation.

The hotel declined following Lucky's death in 1909, but the resort area continued as the retreat for wealthy families, including his granddaughter Dextra Baldwin. In 1884, George Tallant, son of the founder of the Crocker bank, constructed a large house near the Tallac Hotel. The architecture displayed a contrast of rustic sophistication reflecting its use as a luxurious mountain summer home. In 1899, Tallant sold the

Baldwin estate main house at Tallac Historic Site, Lake Tahoe (constructed 1920).

property to the Tevises, another wealthy banking family. The Tevis family enlarged the house and added other structures over the years. These include guest cabins, four servants' cabins, a boathouse, laundry, barn, garage, caretaker's house, pump house, dairy, a polo field, and vegetable gardens.

One other resort complex was the estate of Walter Heller on land purchased from the Baldwin estate in 1922. The Heller family were long time guests at the Tallac Hotel and wanted to continue their summer visits to the lake.

The Forest Service acquired these estates in the late 1960s (one in 1971) and used them for storage, housing, offices, and interpretative facilities. Three estates, the McGonagle, Pope, and Valhalla, form the historic site and were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of their architectural and historical significance. The McGonagle main house is used as a museum. The Pope estate is being restored because it is one of the few remaining intact example of an early Lake Tahoe summer residential complex. Valhalla is managed by an interpretive association.

Recent Publications

Dixie National Forest History

The Dixie National Forest has just received its history publication from the printer. Titled *The Dixie National Forest: Managing an Alpine Forest in an Arid Setting,* the document sets in perspective the evolution of the Forest in the context of southern Utah history. Dr. Wayne K. Hinton of the History Department at Southern Utah State College, researched and wrote the history, as a volunteer, while on sabbatical leave.

Recreation, Lands, and Minerals Staff Officer Ralph Rawlinson convinced Dr. Hinton that the history would be a worthy sabbatical project. Public Information Specialist Bevan Killpack located the fascinating photos displayed throughout the volume. Many were donated by the families of retirees and former permittees. Bevan also worked with Susan McDaniel of the RO Engineering Graphics Section to design and lay out the attractive publication.

Copies have been sent to all Forests in the Region by Dixie Supervisor Hugh Thompson. Units may obtain additional copies by contacting Bevan Killpack at the supervisor's office, Dixie National Forest.

Intermountain Region History

After nearly four years, the history of the Intermountain Region is off the press! Many retirees, Forest and RO Staff people, and Intermountain Research Station folks helped make the document possible.

"This is a document everyone should read," says Regional Forester Stan Tixier. "One can gain a perspective of the Region—with our triumphs and our failures—otherwise unavailable. The lessons of the past can often help us find solutions to today's problems. We thank retired Regional Foresters Floyd Iverson and Vern Hamre, Deputy Regional Foresters Bill Hurst and Gordon Watts, and Uinta Forest Supervisor Jim Jacobs (deceased), who served as reviewers along with Dr. Charles Peterson, editor of the *Western Historical Quarterly*."

"Dr. Thomas G. Alexander of Brigham Young University researched and wrote the history," notes Stan. "He visited every Forest and RO Staff, conducted over 100 interviews, and spent three weeks pouring over documents at Federal Records Centers." Dr. Dennis Roth of the WO History Section made funds available for the project, and served as contracting officer's representative. Phil Johnson, regional history coordinator, was project inspector.

Anyone wishing a copy may order one from:

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
710 N. Capitol St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20401

Ask for *The Rise of Multiple Use Management in the Intermountain West: A History of Region 4 of the Forest Service,* publications Stock No. 001–001–0631–9. The price is $13. Additional details on page 8.

Publications in Brief

- *Fixed Fire Detection Lookout History on the Clearwater National Forest, Idaho.* Linnea Keating and Carl Roenke. August 1987. USDA Forest Service, Northern Region. Clearwater National Forest. Orofino, ID (40 pages with illustrations).

- "Major Fenn's County: A History of the Lower Lochsa, the Lower Selway, the Upper Middlefork of the Clearwater, and Surrounding Lands." Pete Parsell. Available at a cost of $4.75 from the Nez

Recent Publications

Perce National Forest. Route 2, Box 475, Grangeville, ID 83530.

- "Clearwater National Forest Program for the Cataloging, Use, and Storage of Historic Photographs and Negatives." Linnea Keating. 1987. USDA Forest Service. Missoula, MT. [Westfornet]

- *The Rise of Multiple-Use Management in the Intermountain West: A History of Region 4 of the Forest Service*. FS399. Thomas G. Alexander of Brigham University and MESA Corporation of Salt Lake City, Utah. May 1987. USDA Forest Service. Washington, DC (267 pages with illustrations). $13.00.

Works in Progress

- *The Cabin Country* is the title of a proposed book by John F. Lewis on the Sierra National Forest in California. The main topic is the development of the conservation movement in the far West. This is a "labor of love" by the retired science professor.

- Former Gallatin National Forest forest supervisor, Gene Hawkes, continues his research for a proposed history of the Forest.

- The Nez Perce National Forest will award a contract for a revised, updated history of the Forest.

- Cultural Resource Specialist Barb Beck began researching and writing a historic overview of the Helena and Deerlodge National Forests. Expected date of publication by region 1 is fall 1988.

- A history overview of the Coronado National Forest was completed by John P. Wilson. It covers the 16 mountain ranges of the Forest, provides new information regarding the Spanish era in southern Arizona, covers hundreds of years of mining ventures, the cattle industry and dude ranches, and sorts out conflicting accounts of the Indian Wars and early American settlement. Pending funding region 3 will publish it in the future.

- Professor Wayne Hinton and MESA Corporation have submitted the first three chapters of their contract history for region 2.

Meeting of Forest Service Historians

Region 5 hosted the first national meeting of Forest Service historians in San Francisco from September 28 to 30, 1987. Sonia Tamex, R–5 historic preservation officer, organized the conference with the assistance of Linda Lux. Participants included Terry West, WO historian; Gail Throop, R–6 regional historian; Richard Benjamin, R–5 director of recreation; and R–5 historians Pam Conners, Chuck James, and Dana Supernowizc. Staff members of the California SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) and CalTrans (California Transportation) were present as discussants. Gordon Chapelle, National Park Service; Gary Kramer, Records Center; and Waverly Lowell, regional archives, gave presentations. Larry Shoup, archeological consultant, was also in attendance.

The three-day conference provided agency historians a unique opportunity to discuss their activities and future plans. With the exception of the WO History Section, Forest Service professional historians are employed in cultural resources management (CRM). Forest historians accordingly engage in research, such as thematic nominations of historic structures, that stems from the concerns of the CRM program. The paucity of historians in the units ensures that this support role will continue in the future. Rather than advocate separation, conference participants envision an expanded role in the CRM program. In addition to historic site mitigation work, in an ideal CRM program historians will be able to use their skills to produce applied and contextual histories on issues of management concern. Some already have. One area of CRM-History overlap is the area of administrative history. The goal of the WO History Section (1680) is to coordinate this task with the WO Recreation/CRM (2360) staff. This increased collaboration is evident in the proposed handbook chapter on Forest Service historical artifacts and records curation.

Other items on the conference agenda were the Region 5 thematic historic sites management plans, and public interpretation opportunities.

Conference participants hope to schedule a future meeting of Forest Service historians, perhaps in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians.

Cultural Resources Management Activities

Northern Region

Panhandle National Forest

This spring Jack Johnston and Denise Hudspeth of the St. Maries Ranger District, along with volunteers from the district and a local mule riders club, renovated an historic Forest Service cabin on Big Creek, a tributary of the St. Joe River. The renovation included a new roof and porch supports and a general cleanup of the area.

Jack Dorrell of the Fernan Ranger District chaired the first advisory board meeting held to develop the Fourth of July Pass historic site. The site contains part of the 1861 military road built by Captain John Mullan and the tree, blazed by Mullan's crew on July 4, 1861, now known as the Mullan tree.

The Spokane Mountaineers Club presented $500 to the Priest Lake Ranger District to help preserve the Little Snowy Top Lookout. The lookout was built in the northwestern corner of Idaho in 1930. Stabilization work was planned for September 1987 and the summer of 1988.

Clearwater National Forest

The Lochsa Historical Ranger Station, Lochsa Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest received the Idaho Historic Preservation Council's "Orchid" Award as an outstanding example of Idaho historic preservation.

Deerlodge National Forest

The consolidated city county government of Butte-Silver Bow has been designated the first Certified Local Government by the Montana Society for Historical Preservation. This designation required the development of a preservation plan for the city/county. Deerlodge National Forest Planner Ron Hanson and Cultural Resource Specialist Barb Beck served as members of the committee that developed the plan.

In the past year a variety of historic sites were recorded on the Deerlodge NF. Through archival research the Forest delineated the Pioneer/Gold Creek Historic District. The area marked contains the site of initial gold discovery in Montana dating from the 1850's. The district is eligible for the National Register. Fieldwork was conducted this fall by a cultural resource consultant to identify extant features in the district. The Forest plans to identify other historic mining districts over the next few years.

The cultural resources program emphasis is on the inventory of historic administrative sites. In 1987, the majority of these sites were recorded on the Deerlodge National Forest. The next phase is evaluations; work is completed on one ranger district and progressing on three others. A facilities review committee composed of an engineer, district facilities manager, landscape architect, and cultural resources specialist is proposed to ensure compliance with CRM historic building regulations.

Nez Perce National Forest

This summer the Casey family spent a week helping restore the historic Jim Moore Place. This cluster of log structures was built by Moore in the early 1900s as a trading post/homestead. Located on the Salmon River, the site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cultural Resources Management Activities

Beaverhead National Forest

Over 180 historic and prehistoric sites have been identified on the Forest. The sites date from 6000 B.P. to the 1800's. The Lewis and Clark Trail was designated as a National Historical Trail. The Beaverhead County Museum displayed artifacts from the Forest.

Pacific Southwest Region

A Regional CRM action plan, approved recently, includes several action items designed to expand the region's history program. One is a series of thematic studies to identify, evaluate, and enhance historic properties. Fire lookouts, railroad logging sites, administrative buildings, and recreational residences were targeted for study.

The Region was included in a GAO audit of Federal agencies' responsibilities for managing historic structures. The review team visited historic structures on the Lake Tahoe Basic Management Unit. (Refer to Tallac Site feature article.)

The Institute for Forest Genetics, the historic Eddy Tree Breeding Station, was placed on the National Register. Founded in 1925, the institute is the oldest facility in the world devoted to forest genetics research and tree breeding. Today, it is administered by the Pacific Southwest Research Station.

The Los Padres National Forest will conduct emergency stabilization work on the Manzana Schoolhouse on the Santa Lucia Ranger District. The school was a center of social life during the homesteading period. Interpretative displays will be set up at the Lompoc Museum and the Santa Maria Historical Society.

Staff News

Linda Lux is working as a historian in the Regional Office with the cooperation of the Pacific Southwest Research Station. Pam Conners, Historian on the Stanislaus National Forest, returned from graduate study in Public History at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Pam's thesis will be the historic overview for the Forest.

Pacific Northwest Region

Rogue River National Forest

A variety of prehistoric and historic sites continues to be found on the Rogue River National Forest. Most of them are small, ephermeral occupations indicative of seasonal use for hunting-gathering, mining, logging, and other uses.

The Forest co-hosted the 11th annual State of Jefferson meetings in March 1987; these meetings provide a forum for presentations of recent field work and other cultural resources research in Southern Oregon and Northern-most California. Over 80 people attended the 2-day session, at which 25 papers were presented.

Jeff LaLande, Rogue River National Forest Archeologist, has been teaching upper division classes in local and Pacific Northwest history at Southern Oregon State College for the past 3 years. The Oregon State Historical Society will be publishing his book, *First Over the Siskiyous*, (an account of the first Euro-American exploration of the region), this fall.

Siskiyou National Forest

The Siskiyou National Forest published the final report by the consulting

firm Mountain Anthropological Research and Public Anthropological Research in June. *Data Recovery at 35CU149* by Elena Nilsson and Mary L. Maniery describes mitigation data recovery research on an upland site 14 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Excavation work pointed to the use of the site as a core and/or biface reduction work station. Primary use of the site was during the Middle Archaic Period, between 4000 and 2000 years B.P. Sporadic use of the site may have continued until ca. 300 A.D. The report is a major contribution to the data base on interior southwest Oregon prehistory.

Southwestern Region

Air Beacons

The Volunteer Mountain Lookout and beacon no longer exists as shown in the photograph on this page. The Kaibab NF replaced the structure with a CL–100/106 lookout. However, in the 1930's these beacon/lookouts were rather common. Historic photographs (such as this one) indicate that there were at least three in the Southwest Region. They were authorized by special use permits issued to the Department of Commerce. The beacons provided a reference point for cross-country flights. Ideally, they were located about every 10 miles. Nation-wide, only about 100 of these towers survive with 40 eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Kaibab National Forest

Two historic sites on the Kaibab National Forest were recently entered on the National Register of Historic Places: Jacob Lake Ranger Station and Brow Monument. Built in 1910, the ranger station is associated with early Forest Service conservation programs. Brow is an 1872 triangulation station linked with the historic Powell survey, an expedition led by John Wesley Powell to map the last unknown expanse of the continental United States. The Forest is marking its National Register properties with bronze plaques.

Stabilization of an adobe bakery at Camp John A. Rucker in the Chiricahua Mountains is being completed. The building is one of the few remaining structures

Volunteer Mountain Lookout on the Kaibab National Forest in August 1938. The light on the roof of the cabin is a Civil Aeronautics Authority beacon for transcontinental airmail pilots.

Cultural Resources Management Activities

from the military supply camp used by scouting expeditions against renegade Apaches between 1878 and 1880.

Intermountain Region

Ashley National Forest

The last fire lookout of its type in Utah was dedicated August 21—a kickoff to its second half-century of service. Ute Lookout is located in the Flaming Gorge Ranger District, Ashley National Forest, northeast Utah. On the National Register of Historic Places, Ute was designated as a memorial to the late Ray Comstock, a firefighter who, while serving at Flaming Gorge, urged restoration of the lookout.

Over 100 guests and media representatives traveled to the dedication. Former District Ranger Bill Hurst (retired R–3 regional forester) came from New Mexico to tell of his Ute memories during WW II.

Regional Forester Stan Tixier and Forest Supervisor Duane Tucker described Ute's origin and importance in forest protection and conservation the past 50 years. Information Specialist Lee Skabelund was awarded a plaque for his outstanding work in recruiting and organizing volunteers to do the restoration job. Volunteer Don Mathis, a California school teacher, added expertise to the project based on previous experience in Region 1.

Ute was built by CCC's in 1937—one of 3,500 fire towers constructed nation-wide. It was last staffed officially in 1968. Vandals and weather had taken their toll until Lee initiated the restoration effort in the early 80's.

Plans call for manning the tower with volunteers; and to interpret its role in forest conservation along with that of the old weather station and the modern RAWS (Remote Automated Weather Station) adjacent to the tower.

Southern Region

Chattahoochee National Forest

Georgia Civilian Conservation Corps alumni are helping the Chattahoochee National Forest reconstruct a picnic shelter they built in 1936–37. Warwoman Dell Recreation Area shelter in Rabun County has been used for family and group picnics for two generations. The structure is typical American rustic: peeled poles and a hand-laid stone chimney with four fireplace grills.

CCC Camp Ga. F–6 was located nearby. Enrollees there built roads, bridges, and recreation sites; fought fires; and planted trees from June 1933 through June 1937. The site is being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Dell also has CCC-built trout-holding ponds, which helped them restock north Georgia mountain streams. The Southern Appalachian forests were cut over in the 1920's, and eroding topsoil clogged the streams, depleting native fish.

Eastern Region

Green Mountain National Forest

Historians traditionally viewed upland Vermont, including the Green Mountains, as an unoccupied hinterland in their studies of Native American land-use patterns. Recent scholarship is correcting this image. Increased field surveys combined with insights on hunter-gatherer cultural ecology, indicate that Indians in northern New England regularly used upland areas. It is

argued that access to such areas was critical in some cases to their economic well-being.

One example of highland land use is the Homer Stone quartzite quarry site on the Green Mountain National Forest. The site consists of numerous, often overlapping, tool-making workshops on the lower face of a mountain slope. The slope forms into a small intermontane stream valley. Although it averages only 300 yards wide, the site runs nearly a mile along this upland stream (about 2,000 feet elevation). Native quarry workers exploited the extensive quartzite "float" on the site surface.

Special funding from the region allowed Green Mountain National Forest archeologist David Lacy and a crew to conduct extensive testing at the site this past summer. This revealed that the primary product of the quarry was blanks. Lithic activity was correlated with distance to water and degree of slope. Steep ground away from the stream was where the initial procurement of stone took place.

John E. Erickson, director of the Forest Products Laboratory, and Dr. Jerome Saeman, its former deputy director, now adjunct professor of chemical engineering at the University of Wisconsin, admire the portraits of Charles Van Hise and Gifford Pinchot recently installed in the lobby of the Forest Products Laboratory. Dr. Saeman donated the portraits to commemorate the vision of both men in the establishment of the FPL in Madison, WI.

Cultural Resources Management Activities

Downslope waterside areas were where finishing work dominated. The site's potential to yield information on regional trade patterns, territoriality, and craft specialization during the Archaic Period in the Northeast makes it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Shawnee National Forest

In FY 87 the cultural resource management program on the Shawnee National Forest achieved a major milestone by completing the inventory of 20 percent of its land base. This achievement can be credited to an outstanding paraprofessional program that accomplished over half of this goal. As a result of this work, over 500 historic properties and 1,155 prehistoric sites have been identified. Currently, twenty-eight properties have been determined eligible for the National Register, with nominations scheduled over the next decade. The unique sites include prehistoric chert quarries, petroglyphs, pictographs, prehistoric stoneforts, prehistoric mound complexes, historic mining districts, and historic rural farmsteads.

The Forest undertook new management direction by initiating research projects experimenting with the feasibility of predictive models and thematic studies. The initial phase of a prehistoric predictive model was completed for a 40,000-acre tract of land containing a high density of prehistoric upland camps ranging in age from 10,000 B.C. to A.D. 1200. The model will be tested for its success in predicting site locations. A thematic study of historic rural farmsteads was initiated to help develop a model of agricultural development from the early 19th century to the Great Depression. The model will focus on ethnic variation through time and will be useful in comparative studies of agricultural history in Illinois.

Other special highlights for the program included the donation of a large prehistoric artifact collection by W. D. Giffen, a retiree from the Shawnee National Forest. The collection, which exhibits an array of prehistoric tools from southern Illinois, will be displayed on the ranger districts for the public. Restoration of the Fitzgibbons site, a large prehistoric village and burial complex dating back to 6,000 B.C. was completed after the site had been severely looted by pothunters in 1984. Four individuals received felony convictions and sentences between 1984 and 1986 for their actions. Finally, Bob Winters, paraprofessional on the Jonesboro Ranger District, discovered the geologic formation containing a unique chert source utilized by prehistoric groups living about 8,000 years ago. Professional archeologists have been searching for this source since 1982 and its discovery will greatly enhance our understanding of band mobility during this time.

New Archeologist

Bertram Herbert is the new archeologist on the Allegheny National Forest. Bert came to the Forest in March 1987 after working as a consultant for a private firm. A native of New York City (Queens), Bert graduated from Fordham University and did graduate work at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

"We're in the process of creating a cultural resources plan for the forest," said Bert. Part one of the plan will incorporate the resources related to oil and gas technology. Placement of these resources into a study unit will allow the Forest to evaluate their cultural significance.

Cultural Resources Management Activities

One other CRM project is the excavation of a late-prehistory rock shelter, a time about which little is known in area archeology. Bert adds, "This project allows us to make a major contribution to our understanding of these resources." Work on the rock shelter will continue in the spring.

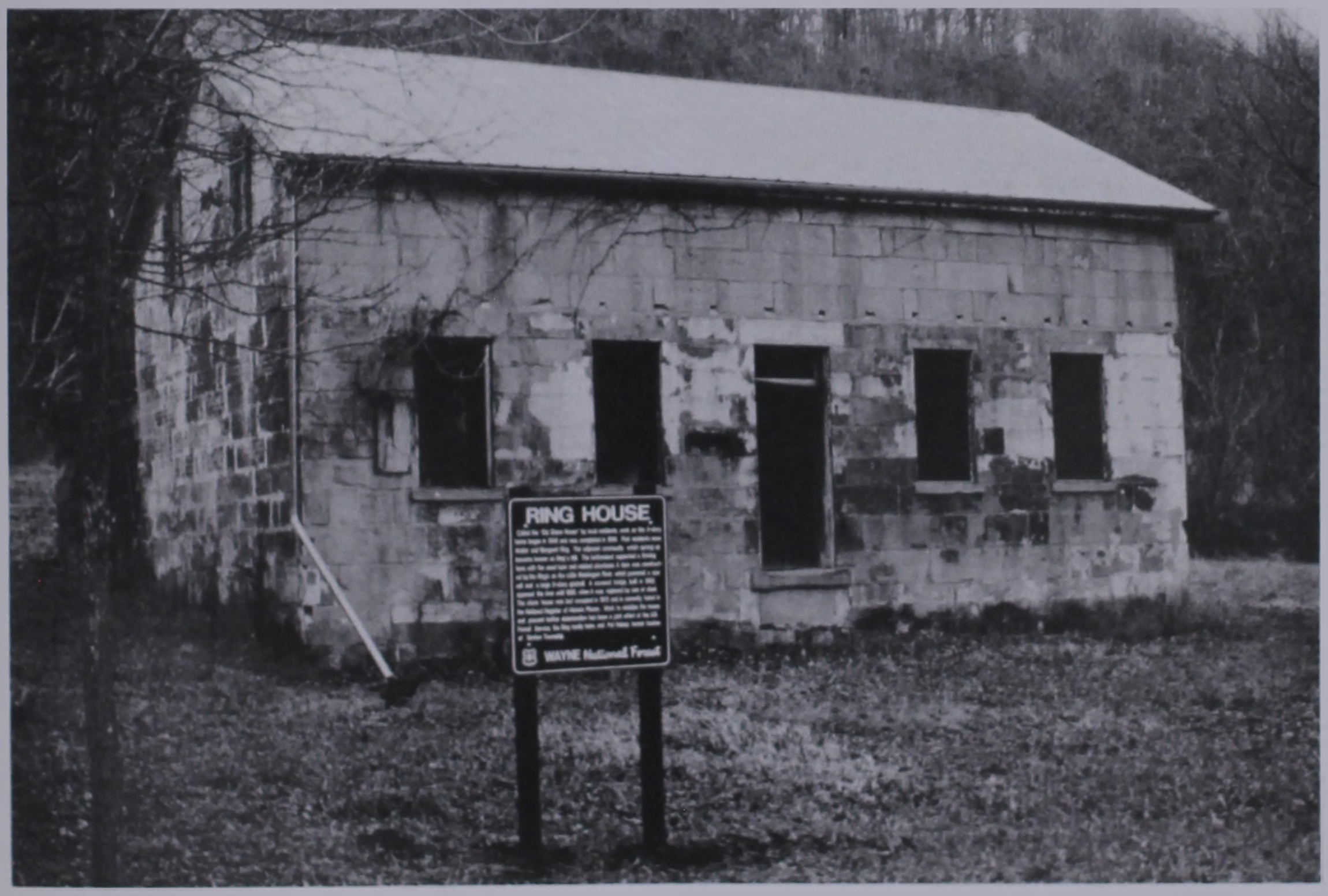
Feature Article

Ohio Rock House Restored by Heirs—*Teena Sechler*

Sitting on the banks of one of the most picturesque rivers in Ohio is a rock house that dates back to early 1800's. Built over 140 years ago, the house belonged to the Ring family who owned a mill along the river.

When the Forest Service began to develop canoe access points along the Little Muskingum River, the Ring Mill site was chosen as one of the points to be developed. The mill site had belonged to Walter Ring, and though the mill was gone, the house was standing and the basic construction still solid.

"Since the Forest had very little money to put into the project, the work was accomplished largely through volunteers and extra efforts by our own people," says Charles Myers, District Ranger on the Wayne National Forest. "Our most successful volunteer effort was the Ring Mill House." Myers said the heirs of the house volunteered to reroof and repair the house. The Forest has constructed a sign in front which explains the history of the house and



The Ring House, a 140-year-old stone house restored as a public recreation site on the Wayne National Forest.

credits the family for their work in restoring it.

The access point was designed to include a small campground and picnic shelter. The Ring family heirs, after completing the restoration of the house, volunteered to build the picnic shelter and do most of the site work on the area as well.

Other river access points are tied to covered bridges. "There aren't many covered bridges left in Ohio," explains Myers. "They have survived in this area because it is remote and the roads have very little traffic."

Myers says covered bridges were common in southeastern Ohio because wood there was plentiful. County commissioner records report there were 3,548 covered bridges constructed between 1809 and 1919 in Ohio. Fewer than 150 remain. "Covered bridges are uniquely American," says Myers. "Europeans used stone to build bridges, but American frontiersmen had little patience for stone work, though they understood that by covering a wooden bridge it could last 4 to 6 times as long."

The bridges and the rock mill house are distinctly part of our American past, and canoeing down the Little Muskingum in southeastern Ohio is embarking on a trip through history.